



THE PHYSICIAN'S *Bookshelf*

PSYCHOPATHOLOGY OF COMMUNICATION—Edited by Paul H. Hoch, M.D., and Joseph Zubin, Ph.D., New York State Psychiatric Institute; Columbia University. Proceedings of the 46th annual meeting of the American Psychopathological Association, New York City, June, 1956. Grune and Stratton, New York, 1958. 305 pages, \$6.75.

This book, formed from the collection of papers given at the 46th meeting of the American Psychopathological Association, has as its laudable purpose the focusing of attention upon the hitherto neglected field of communication considered as both a means of interpersonal relationship and as an adaptive mechanism. Particular attention is paid to the communication which takes place in the interview situation and also to the changes in the communicative process evinced in a variety of pathological processes.

In the opinion of the reviewer, this desirable objective was not fulfilled by this book. The volume gives the impression of a tatterdemalion hodgepodge and it is difficult to see why some of the contributions have been included or what direct relevance they have to the phenomenon of communication pathology. Moreover, it was particularly disappointing to see that none of the selections explored the phenomenon of paleologic irrationality as it is manifested in interpersonal communication and the sizable role which it plays in verbal and non-verbal interaction.

Moreover, the book shows the all too common defect of compilations from a set of papers given at a meeting. It lacks cohesiveness, integration, and complete coverage of the field, and in the opinion of the reviewer is a book recommended for perusal but not for purchase.

CHARLES W. WAHL, M.D.

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THE EXTENT OF CANCER ILLNESS IN THE UNITED STATES—By the Biometry Branch of the National Cancer Institute, Dr. Michael B. Shimkin, Chief of the Branch. Public Health Service Publication No. 547. For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C. 23 pages, 25c.

Cancer is a disease found in all races and ages of man, and apparently all animal species. There are, however, marked differences in the occurrence of cancer by type and by site, from species to species, and in different countries. The distribution of the specific forms of cancer appears to be influenced by a variety of factors, including age, sex, race, familial history and exposure to potential carcinogens. The long intervals between exposure to such agents and the development of disease may conceal the nature of causal relationships.

This small monograph attempts to answer 31 questions pertaining to the extent of cancer illness in the United States by means of brief text, charts and tables. The data comes from mortality statistics of the National Office of Vital Statistics, morbidity surveys conducted by the National Cancer Institute, and data accumulated by the Connecticut State Cancer Registry. Dr. John R. Heller, Director of the National Cancer Institute, reminds us in the foreword that

mortality data are not precise, and that there is not complete agreement amongst pathologists as to the nature of many borderline neoplastic conditions. However, despite these limitations, a reasonably reliable estimate of the extent of cancer illness and trends therein can be made from the data at hand.

To eliminate the effect of differences in age of the population, many of the tables and charts have been adjusted, taking the 1950 census population of the United States as standard.

Since 1937, cancer has been the second leading cause of death in the United States, and the death rate is apparently increasing slightly. The probability of a person in the U. S. developing cancer is roughly 1 in 4, and of dying of cancer roughly 1 in 8. The digestive system accounts for the greatest proportion of cancer deaths in each sex, being followed by the respiratory tract and genital organs in males, and the genital organs and breasts in females.

There are a series of charts and curves showing the survival of cancer patients according to site and sex. There is brief reference to survival data and cure data following surgical treatment, radiological treatment, and a combination of these two curative methods. The author wisely points out that comparison of surgical and radiological data in the tables is not valid since the surgical group includes a much lower proportion of poor risk patients.

Improvements in survival rates have been noted for several primary sites, including cervix and corpus uteri, colon and rectum. However, survival prospects for many other sites such as stomach, lung and breast have remained virtually unchanged.

The vast amount of data compressed in these tables should be of value to physicians, cancer educators, and persons concerned with the impact of cancer on large population groups.

L. H. GARLAND, M.B.

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A MANUAL OF ELECTROTHERAPY—Arthur L. Watkins, M.D., Assistant Clinical Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School. Lea & Febiger, Philadelphia, 1958. 259 pages, \$5.00.

This is a new book, a first edition, by the present author. However, it is based, both in text and in illustrations, on a previous book of the late Dr. Richard Kovacs, which was entitled "A Manual of Physical Therapy."

The present author has confined the voluminous aspects of physical therapy to the facet of electrotherapy. This would include the subjects of heat, light, and electricity for certain muscle testing, electrical stimulation, ion transfer, etc. It is an excellent basic text for students of physical therapy and would be useful to physicians who are interested in a reference text in this field. The material covers both the physics, the physiological effects, safety rules, and actual methods of use. Clinical conditions are not discussed in this book.

S. MALVERN DORINSON, M.D.